XXXVIII. *Extract of a Letter from Mr.* John Latham, *Surgeon and Midwife, at* Dartford, *in* Kent, *to Mr.* Warner, *Fellow of the Royal Society, and Senior Surgeon to* Guy's Hoſpital. *Communicated to the Royal Society by Mr.* Warner.

Read Nov. 7, 1770.

MR. A. B. about 55 years of age, was an healthy man till about 20 years ſince, when he was firſt ſeized with a fever; at which time he followed the trade of a miller, and maker of French barley. This laſt buſineſs, he tells me, is attended with very great heat to the operator, and expoſes him to a continual cloud of duſt. As ſoon as he began to work, his breath grew oppreſſed with a ſenſation of his body being puffed up all over; from which ſymptoms he was relieved by occaſionally leaving off his buſineſs. On the firſt cold caught after his entering on this kind of employment, a fever attacked him; which has generally returned ſometimes once, and ſometimes twice in a year, chiefly in autumn; but ſometimes in ſpring likewiſe: though he once miſſed being ill for two years together. After carrying on this trade for four or five years, he left it off; as he attributed his diſorder chiefly to the effects of the meal duſt. Be that as it will, the fevers have not been ſo violent ſince, as while he followed that occupation: though the cuticle, or outer ſkin, has come off, the ſame as before. As to the particulars of his illneſs, they are nearly as follow: The diſorder

begins with a violent fever, attended with pains in the head, back, and limbs, accompanied with continual retchings; he ſometimes vomited up much bile, at other times little or none; the ſkin was dry, the tongue much furred, together with great thirſt, coſtiveneſs, and the urine highly coloured. At the beginning of the fever he was generally let blood; this evacuation afforded ſome relief, and by keeping his body open, and taking cooling medicines, the retchings abated in about five or ſix days: the whole ſurface of the body became yellow, though this circumſtance did not always happen. Afterwards it became florid, having the appearance of a raſh; on which he felt a great uneaſineſs for ſeveral days, with a numbneſs and tingling all over him: when the urine grew turned, and depoſited a thick ſediment. About the beginning of the third week from the firſt attack, the cuticle appeared elevated in many places. In eight or nine days afterwards it became ſo looſe, as to admit of being eaſily removed in large flakes. The cuticle of the hands from the wriſt to the fingers ends came off whole, bearing the reſemblance of a glove. He never was diſpoſed to ſweat in any part of his illneſs, and when ſweating was attempted by medicines, he grew worſe for it; nor was he much at eaſe till his urine depoſited a ſediment, after which he felt very little inconvenience, but from the rigidity of the ſkin. The nails of the patient, whoſe caſe you communicated to the Royal Society, are mentioned to have come off after the illneſs; I did not find that ever was the caſe in this perſon.

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As to your communicating the above account to theRoyal Society, I beg that may be as you think proper: though, I ſhould ſuppoſe it would not prove unacceptable to the medical members of that learned body; as it may ſhew, that the caſe already recorded in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of laſt year is not a ſingular one. I wiſh the glove, I ſend you, was as perfect as I have ſeen ſome of them; but, as it is, I beg your acceptance of it.

With the human glove, you will receive a curioſity, which I think not inferior to the glove; to wit, a very ſmall fœtus, brought into the world at the ſame time with a live child at its full growth. The woman was delivered before I came to her: on examining the placenta, a ſubſtance appeared ſomewhat unuſual; and on waſhing it clean, I diſcovered the fœtus abovementioned. It had no viſible communication with the placenta, but was ſqueezed flat, though not in the leaſt putrid, and ſeemed ſhrivelled. I don't remember a caſe like this mentioned, except in Smellie's, vol. ii. p. 85, where he relates one from the Academy of Sciences at Paris, nearly ſimilar to this. May we not ſuppoſe the woman to have been with child of twins; and that this, dying, was not diſcharged, as was moſt likely to happen, but remained till the time of the natural birth, when they were both expelled together?

I am, very reſpectfully,
Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient,
and very humble ſervant,
Joſeph Warner.

Hatton Garden,
Nov. 22, 1770.